

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Fiscal Year 2006 Announcement of Program Funding

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.902—Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Executive Summary: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the availability of up to \$4 million through the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), under authorities provided by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935. The CCPI offers two components in fiscal year 2006: the Conservation Priorities component and the Rapid Watershed Assessment component. The Conservation Priorities component offers a mechanism to foster partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds (8-digit HUC or smaller) or airsheds of special significance. The Rapid Watershed Assessment component provides funding for locally-led resource assessment and planning on an 8-digit HUC watershed basis. The CCPI is administered in two phases. First, applicants apply through NRCS State Conservationists for planning funds. For each component, State Conservationists may forward up to two proposals to NRCS National Headquarters for evaluation and award consideration. Following successful completion of the planning phase, implementation may begin using funding secured or provided by partners. CCPI projects are expected to secure implementation funds from a wide range of potential partners from local, State, and Federal governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations that have a history of working with agricultural producers. Potential implementation funding sources must be identified in the final plan.

This notice announces the availability of up to \$4 million in FY 2006 for the planning phase of CCPI projects, with \$2 million available for each component. CCPI awards will be selected through a nationwide competition. Applications are requested from State and local agencies, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations that have a history of working with agricultural producers. This notice sets forth the funding priorities, applicant and project eligibility requirements, application procedures, and evaluation criteria for proposed projects.

Addresses: Written proposals must be received at the appropriate NRCS State Office(s) by 5 p.m. (local time) on March 7, 2006. A list of State Offices and addresses appears at the end of this notice and is available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/organization/regions.html>.

Applications submitted electronically must be received by 5 p.m. EST on March 7, 2006. To submit your application electronically, please log on to www.grants.gov/apply and follow the instructions.

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Legislative Authority

The CCPI is a component of the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program established under authorities provided by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935, 16 U.S.C. 590a et seq.

NRCS conducts conservation planning at two scales: 1) area-wide conservation planning; and, 2) farm- or field-level conservation planning. Area-wide plans are comprehensive plans for a watershed or other geographic area. Area-wide plan development follows a locally led effort that considers all Federal, State, and local conservation programs, and private sector programs, singly and in combination, as tools to solve natural resource concerns. NRCS generally uses the CTA program to conduct area-wide planning. NRCS also uses the CTA program to conduct farm- or field-level conservation planning that occurs prior to the commitment or approval of an application for funding in a mandatory NRCS program (funded through the CCC). CCPI will fund conservation planning efforts falling under the first category, the area-wide (water- or airshed) level, but not strictly at the farm- or field-level.

CCPI Components

For fiscal year 2006, two components of the CCPI are offered. Applicants may apply to one or both of the two separate components described in this document. Please review each component carefully to determine which best fits your proposed project. Your proposal should clearly indicate the component to which you are applying. The Conservation Priorities component, previously offered in FY 2004 and 2005, is described on pages 4-15. The Rapid Watershed Assessment component, new in FY 2006, is described pages 16-25.

CCPI Conservation Priorities Component

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Of the critical natural resource concerns facing agriculture and the environment, many require solutions that look beyond the borders of individual farms and ranches, or the common ways that natural resource conservation programs are implemented. Changes in land use, industry structure, and geographic concentration have led to environmental degradation in some locations that may be best addressed on a watershed scale. CCPI is established to encourage the formation of partnerships to devise and implement water- and airshed scale solutions to pressing natural resource concerns associated with agriculture and rural settings. Commonly, water- and airshed scale environmental problems are addressed using one or more natural resource conservation programs without the benefit of a well-planned partnership arrangement that identifies the resources that each partner will contribute to the project. CCPI is designed to encourage the formation of strong, defined partnerships to address conservation priorities on a water- or airshed scale. In this way, CCPI fills a gap in the NRCS conservation program portfolio while maintaining NRCS' commitment to locally led, partnership-driven conservation efforts.

B. Overview

The purpose of CCPI is to foster conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on critical natural resource issues in watersheds or airsheds of special significance. Watershed-based projects must be carried out in 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds, or smaller. NRCS is soliciting applications from entities that would direct and coordinate a CCPI project, including State and local governments and agencies; Indian tribes; and non-governmental organizations that have a history of working with agricultural producers. The initiative may be implemented and applications accepted from all 50 States, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Basin Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

CCPI applications must adhere to the CCPI objectives and address one or more of five conservation priorities identified for fiscal year 2006. The five conservation priorities are: terrestrial and freshwater aquatic wildlife habitat, invasive species, livestock nutrient management, minor/specialty crop pest management, and agricultural air quality. NRCS intends to select as one of the CCPI awards a proposal that addresses these conservation priorities as they impact limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes.

Complete applications must be submitted to the appropriate State Conservationist. Within each State, the State Technical Committee (or a subcommittee thereof) will evaluate submissions based on the criteria for proposal evaluation found in this notice. The State Technical Committee will make recommendations for proposal selection to the State Conservationist. The State Conservationist may concur with and forward up to two proposals to NRCS National Headquarters for funding consideration. Because NRCS is encouraging proposals that will address conservation priorities in a watershed or airshed, it is anticipated that some proposals will cross State or Tribal boundaries. Such multi-State proposals must be submitted to all relevant State Conservationists. The State Conservationists will coordinate their review and consideration of such applications and must jointly concur with an application before forwarding it to NRCS National Headquarters.

The forwarding of a proposal(s) to NRCS National Headquarters indicates the State Conservationist's intent to provide financial and technical assistance for project implementation, as described in the project application, following successful completion of the project planning phase. Future obligation of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds.

Applications forwarded by State Conservationists to NRCS National Headquarters will be evaluated by a CCPI Review Board according to the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in this notice. The CCPI Review Board will make recommendations for awards to the Chief. Final selections will be made by the Chief. For applications selected by the Chief, CCPI funds will be allocated to the appropriate State Conservationist who will make the award to the Project Director through an agreement. Agreements awarding funds will be signed by the Project Director and the appropriate

State Conservationist. For multi-state proposals, NRCS will designate a sponsoring NRCS State Conservationist who will be responsible for administering the agreement.

The development of CCPI plans must comply with all relevant Federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as cultural resource preservation requirements. Following successful completion of the planning phase, the Project Director submits the final project plan to the State Conservationist(s) and all other partners of the project. After approval of the plan by the project partners, project implementation may begin using funding secured or provided by the partnership.

Because CCPI is fostering partnerships to address significant natural resource and environmental concerns, it is anticipated that a variety of funding sources will be needed to implement the project plan and meet the goals of a project. Implementation funding may be secured from such sources as local, State, Tribal, or Federal governments, or from private organizations.

C. Conservation Priorities

Following are the five conservation priorities for FY 2006. Applications must address at least one of these priorities.

<i>Terrestrial and freshwater aquatic wildlife habitat</i> Projects under this natural resource concern must address at least one of the following sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Freshwater aquatic habitat restoration;ii. Protection and enhancement of habitat for species with declining populations;iii. Creation of wildlife habitat corridors.
<i>Invasive species</i> Projects under this natural resource concern must address at least one of the following sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Noxious weed control;ii. Native plant restoration;
<i>Livestock nutrient management</i> Projects under this natural resource concern must address at least one of the following sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) development and implementation;ii. Sustainable animal agricultural systems;iii. Animal waste utilization.
<i>Minor/specialty crop pest management</i> Projects under this natural resource concern must address at least one of the following sub-topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) development and implementation;

ii. Integration of environmental stewardship with producer production objectives.
<p><i>Agricultural air quality</i></p> <p>Projects under this natural resource concern must address at least one of the following sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mitigation of agricultural air emissions, including greenhouse gases, particulates, odor, and ammonia. ii. Carbon sequestration.

D. Conservation Priorities Component Objectives

The majority of NRCS conservation program funding goes directly to producers or small groups of producers. NRCS recognizes the need for multiple approaches to natural resource conservation, and is committed to using various means to assist producers in meeting their natural resource objectives and in complying with local, State, and Federal environmental regulations. NRCS believes that fostering partnerships through a locally led process is critical to addressing natural resource concerns that are watershed- or airshed-based in scope. Implementation of the conservation priorities component is a reflection of this belief.

Proposals must describe projects that are consistent with the following four CCPI objectives. CCPI projects must encourage:

1. producers to cooperate in project planning and the establishment of project goals, as well as the installation and maintenance of conservation practices that affect multiple agricultural operations;
2. producers to share information and technical and financial resources;
3. cumulative and demonstrable conservation benefits in geographic areas; and,
4. the development and demonstration of innovative conservation methods.

E. Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Tribes

For the conservation priorities component, NRCS intends to select as at least one of the CCPI awards a proposal that addresses the conservation priorities, as identified above, of limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes. NRCS encourages applications that address the natural resource conservation needs of these historically underserved farmers and ranchers. In the event that no proposals of this type merits selection, an additional award(s) will be selected from the general pool of applicants.

II. FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Effective on the publication date of this notice, NRCS announces the availability of up to \$2 million for the conservation priorities component of CCPI. Funds will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Applicants may request between \$50,000 and \$200,000 in funding for a CCPI project. Applicants must provide a 1:1 match using non-NRCS funding. Up to 100 percent of the match may come from in-kind contributions.

Awardees will have 18 months from the execution date of the funding agreement to complete their final project plans. The available funding is anticipated to fund approximately 20 awards. The anticipated start date for awarded projects is July 1, 2006. Awards will be made using agreements developed and managed by the NRCS State office in the States in which projects are carried out.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Applicant Eligibility

CCPI applicants must be a State or local agency, Federally-recognized Indian tribe, or non-governmental organization that has a history of working with agricultural producers. Individuals, private businesses, and Federal agencies, while not eligible to apply for CCPI funds, are invited to participate as partners in CCPI projects.

NRCS and the project partners are responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully implement and complete the project. NRCS encourages the use of technical service providers to assist with project planning and implementation.

B. Eligible Activities

CCPI funds are to be used solely for the completion of the project planning phase, including the compiling of natural resource and environmental information, conducting public input and outreach efforts, development of a project plan, and the establishment of partnership agreements. The development of CCPI plans should address all relevant Federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as cultural resource preservation requirements. The intent is for the project plan to result in project implementation, to be carried out using funding secured or provided by project partners. CCPI projects are expected to secure implementation funds from a wide range of potential partners from local, State, and Federal governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. Potential project implementation funding sources must be identified in the project plan.

C. Examples of Eligible Activities

The following are two examples of projects that would be eligible for funding through CCPI. These examples are intended for illustration only, and do not represent any bias on the part of NRCS in soliciting for, or making awards to, any particular type of project:

- A State department of natural resources prepares a project plan along with partners including an Indian tribes, several Federal agencies, and two local producer organizations, to address declining wildlife habitat for two bird species with declining populations. The plan outlines a strategy to use various local, State, and Federal conservation programs to engage producers in restoring wildlife habitat and purchasing conservation easements on lands valuable to wildlife.
- A non-governmental organization facilitates development of a project plan that creates a partnership comprised of a State agriculture agency, a State environmental agency, a land-grant university, a conservation district to address livestock waste issues in a watershed with high soil nutrient levels. The plan outlines an implementation effort that would engage producers and use funds

from various sources to implement innovative conservation practices to reduce livestock waste, employ feed management practices, and reduce air and odor emissions from livestock operations.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Obtain Application Materials

All OMB standard forms necessary for CCPI submission are available on the OMB website http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_forms.html and on Grants.gov.

B. Proposal Content and Format

Proposals must contain the information set forth below in order to receive consideration for an award. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NRCS or others as to the relative merits of the project described in the application. Applications must be submitted in the following format.

Proposals are to be typewritten on 8½" x 11" white paper, double spaced, and on one side only. The text of the proposal must be typewritten in a font no smaller than 12-point, with one-inch margins. If submitting proposals for more than one project, submit a separate, complete application package for each project.

Proposals must include all required forms and narrative sections described below; incomplete applications will not be considered. NRCS recognizes that information related to the project implementation phase will not be fully known until the project planning is completed; however, applicants must provide the projected or anticipated information, to the best of their ability, when submitting the application.

1. Cover sheet: Applicants must use Standard Form 424 as the cover sheet for each project proposal. Standard Form 424 can be downloaded from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424.pdf> or obtained from a NRCS State Office (a list of NRCS State Offices is provided in the appendix of this announcement).

2. Project abstract: Each proposal must contain a summary of not more than two pages that provides the following:

- a. Project title;
- b. Project objectives and scope;
- c. CCPI conservation priority or priorities addressed (taken from section I.C. above);
- d. Summary of the work to be performed during the project planning phase and anticipated in the project implementation phase;
- e. Name of the State Conservationist(s) cooperating on the project;
- f. Names and affiliations of project partners and collaborators;
- g. Estimated number of agricultural producers involved in both the project planning and implementation phases;
- h. Duration of project planning phase and anticipated duration of the project implementation phase (beginning and ending dates);
- i. Total cost of project planning phase and federal funds requested for project

planning phase;

- j. Total anticipated funding need during the project implementation phase; and,
- k. Name, address, telephone, email, and other contact information for the Project Director.

3. Project description: The CCPI project must be completely and accurately described in no more than 10 typewritten, double-spaced pages, and include the following:

a. Project background: Describe the history and need for the proposed project. Describe past efforts carried out to address the issue at hand. Describe how this project will provide environmental benefits superior to those of past or current efforts and how the partnership established through the CCPI will improve the likelihood for project success.

b. Project objectives: Be specific, using qualitative and quantitative measures to describe the purpose and objectives of both the project planning phase and the project implementation phase. State how the project objectives are consistent with the four CCPI objectives described above in this notice.

c. Project methods: Describe clearly how the planning phase of the project will be carried out. Detail the activities and partners required to complete the planning phase. List the conservation programs and describe the conservation activities that may be required to implement the project.

d. Scope: Describe the location of the project and the relative size and scope (e.g., acres, animal units, etc.) of the project area, including a description of the environmental degradation the project will address and the causes of the environmental degradation. Provide a map of the project area;

e. Project partnership: List all project partners and their roles in the project. Describe how the funds for the planning phase will be used to build and strengthen the project partnership. Estimate the number of producers whose participation will be required to both plan and then successfully implement the project. Describe the outreach efforts that will be used to promote the project to producers and encourage them to participate;

f. Project milestones and timeline: Provide a table listing project milestones, timeframes, and significant actions through project completion. The milestones and timeline should reflect the planning and implementation phases of the project;

g. Project management: Give a detailed description of how the project will be organized and managed. Include a list of key project personnel, their relevant education or experience, and their anticipated contributions to the project;

h. Anticipated results and benefits: Describe the anticipated natural resource conservation results and environmental benefits to be derived from the proposed activities of the project implementation phase, and explain how the results will be measured. Be as specific and quantitative as possible. Describe anticipated environmental benefits and identify project beneficiaries, for example, agricultural producers by type or region or sector; rural communities; municipalities. Explain how these entities will benefit. In addition, describe how results will be communicated to others through outreach activities.

i. Limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, and tribes: To receive special consideration for selection in this category, describe how the project addresses

one or more of the conservation priorities, as identified in section I.C., as it impacts limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes.

4. Budget Information: The budget section of the application should be prepared in two parts. For the project planning phase, use Standard Form 424A to document budget needs, which can be downloaded from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424a.pdf>. In addition, provide a detailed narrative in support of the standard form. Itemize the costs necessary for successful completion of the planning phase of the project, including the amount of CCPI funds requested. Indicate the total amount (both cash and in-kind) of non-NRCS matching support that will be available for the planning phase. In the budget narrative, identify the source, the amount, and the nature (cash or in-kind) of the matching funds. In-kind costs of equipment or project personnel may comprise the entirety of the matching funds required for the project planning phase.

For the project implementation phase, provide a list of anticipated Federal, State, and local conservation programs that may be used to implement the project, and the anticipated level of funding needed to implement the project plan.

The forwarding of a proposal to the NRCS National Headquarters indicates the State Conservationist's intent to provide financial and technical assistance for project implementation. Future obligation of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds.

Certain costs, such as entertainment costs, may not be covered using CCPI funds. Questions regarding the allowances of particular items of cost should be directed to the appropriate State contact listed in the appendix. Indirect cost allowances will be governed by the following:

- Non-profit entities—OMB circular A-122

- Educational Institutions—OMB circular A-21

- State and local governments—OMB circular A-87

- Administrative requirements—2 CFR 215

- Grants and Agreements—OMB circular A-102 and 7 CFR 3015

5. Stakeholder/Partner Letters of Support: Provide letters of support from partners with significant roles in the project.

6. State Conservationist's statement and signature: Provide a signed statement from the State Conservationist in support of the proposed project. The statement should indicate the State Conservationist's support for the project; a commitment to working collaboratively with project partners to achieve the project objectives; and, intent to provide financial and technical assistance funding for the project implementation effort. Future obligation of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds. Multi-State proposals must include the signatures and indication of concurrence of all State Conservationists involved in the project. *NOTE:* This item must be added to the application after it is selected by the State Conservationist to be forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters.

7. Certifications: All applications must include a signed Standard Form (SF) 424B - Assurances, Non-construction Programs. SF 424B may be downloaded from:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424b.pdf>, or contact a State NRCS office. Applicants, by signing and submitting an application, assure and certify that they are in compliance with the following from 7 Code of Federal Register (CFR):

- a. Part 3017, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) (http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3017_04.html);
- b. Part 3018, New Restrictions on Lobbying (http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3018_04.html); and,
- c. Part 3021, Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance) (http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3021_04.html).

8. DUNS Number: A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 70 million businesses worldwide. A federal Register notice of final policy issuance (68 FR 38402) requires a DUNS number in every application (i.e., hard copy and electronic) for a grant or cooperative agreement (except applications from individuals) submitted on or after October 1, 2003. Therefore, potential applicants should verify that they have a DUNS number or take the steps needed to obtain one. For information about how to obtain a DUNS number go to <http://www.grants.gov/RequestaDUNS> or call 1-866-705-5711. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.

9. Required Registration for Grants.gov: The Central Contract Registry (CCR) is a database that serves as the primary Government repository for contractor information required for the conduct of business with the Government. This database will also be used as a central location for maintaining organizational information for organizations seeking and receiving grants from the Government. Such organizations must register in the CCR registration). For information about how to register in the CCR visit the “Get Started” section at <http://www.grants.gov>. Allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the CCR registration.

C. How to Submit a Written Proposal

Applicants must submit one signed original and four copies of each project application. Each copy of the proposal must be stapled securely in the upper left hand corner. Hard copies must be accompanied by an electronic copy on a 3.5-inch diskette or CD. Electronic files must be in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. Applications submitted via facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted.

Written proposals must be sent to the NRCS State Conservationist in the State where the proposed project will be carried out. Multi-State proposals must be submitted to all relevant State Conservationists. See the Appendix for the list of NRCS State Conservationists, or consult the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/organization/regions.html>.

D. How to Submit a Proposal Electronically:

Applicants may submit proposals electronically through [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov), the federal government’s e-grants portal. Applications submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) must contain all of the elements of a complete application outlined above. Instructions for

electronically submitting the required standard forms, abstract, narrative, and declarations are included in the CCPI Grants.gov notice. Applications submitted electronically are date and time stamped by Grants.gov and must be received by the identified closing date.

Note that NRCS is not responsible for any technical malfunctions or website problems related to Grants.gov submissions. Applicants should begin the Grants.gov process well before the submission deadline to avoid problems.

E. Proposal Due Date

Applicant Submission to the State office: Written proposals must be received at the appropriate NRCS State Office(s) by 5 p.m. (local time) on March 7, 2006. A list of State Offices and addresses appears at the end of this notice and is available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/organization/regions.html>. Applications submitted electronically must be received by 5 p.m. EST on March 7, 2006.

Forwarding to National Headquarters: State Conservationists must forward proposals selected at the State level to the following address by 5 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on April 7, 2006: CCPI Program Manager, Financial Assistance Programs Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 14th and Independence Ave. SW., Room 5239-S, Washington, DC 20250. Proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted.

A proposal's postmark date is not a factor in whether an application is received on time. The applicant assumes the risk of any delays in proposal delivery. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit completed applications via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by NRCS.

F. Acknowledgement of Submission

Receipt of all applications forwarded from State Conservationists to NRCS National Headquarters will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants must provide an accurate email address.

G. Funding Restrictions

The indirect costs (F & A) for CCPI awards may not exceed 15 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Awardees may not use unrecovered indirect costs as part of their matching funds.

V. PROPOSAL REVIEW

A. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The following four criteria will be used to evaluate project proposals at the State and National levels. Each of the four criteria carries equal weight.

Purpose and goals

1. The purpose and goals of the project are clearly stated and consistent with the CCPI ;
2. The project adheres to the CCPI objectives described in this notice;
3. The project addresses at least one of the CCPI conservation priorities; and,
4. There is clear and significant potential for a positive and measurable outcome.

Soundness of planning phase

1. The planning phase is based on a locally led, watershed or geographic approach that details a strategy for:
 - a. collection of information from local individuals and communities;
 - b. inventorying and mapping of natural resource and environmental conditions;
 - c. assessing the appropriate conditions;
 - d. identifying the problems, concerns, and opportunities;
 - e. determining the goals and objectives of the local individuals and communities;
 - f. formulating alternative solutions; and,
 - g. deciding on the alternative(s) to pursue.
2. The outreach strategy will likely generate local interest and participation.

Implementation strategy

1. The proposal includes a vision for project implementation that is consistent with the planning phase approach.
2. There is a good likelihood that the project will attain its goals and objectives through implementation of the project plan.
3. The proposal demonstrates intent to leverage NRCS conservation programs with other partner contributions to achieve enhanced environmental results.

Project management

1. The proposal has clear milestones and timelines, designated staff, and demonstrates collaboration and partnership.
2. The proposal is accompanied by adequate support letters from partners and stakeholders.
3. The project staff has the relevant expertise needed to do the work.
4. The budget request is reasonable and adequately justified.

B. Proposal Review and Selection Process

Upon receipt by the NRCS State Conservationist(s), applications will be evaluated and ranked by the State Technical Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, using the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in this notice. The State Technical Committee will forward the result of its review to the State Conservationist, who will choose up to two proposals to be forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters. Multi-State proposals forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters must have the signature and concurrence of each State Conservationist who is party to the proposal.

All applications forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters will be screened for completeness. Incomplete applications, including those that do not meet eligibility requirements, will be eliminated from competition, and notification of elimination will be sent to the applicant.

Applications meeting the requirements of this notice will be evaluated by a CCPI Review Board using the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in the section above. The CCPI Review Board consists of the NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs, Deputy Chief for

Science and Technology, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, one Regional Assistant Chief, and one NRCS National Headquarters Division Director.

Ranked applications will be forwarded to the Chief with the recommendations of the CCPI Review Board. The Chief will make final award selections.

VI. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Anticipated Award Announcement and Notification

CCPI awards are anticipated to be announced on June 1, 2006. Applicants who have been selected will be notified by the appropriate State Conservationist and by official letter from NRCS National Headquarters. Applicants whose proposals have not been selected will be notified by NRCS State offices and by official letter from NRCS National Headquarters.

B. Reporting Requirements

CCPI reporting requirements will be included in the agreement between the awardee and the appropriate State Conservationist.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

National Program Contact:

Kari Cohen
CCPI National Program Manager
14th and Independence Avenue SW
Room 5239-S
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone: (202) 720-2335
Fax: (202) 720-4265

State Program Contacts:

See list in Section VIII below for the contact information for your State.

Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) Component

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Overview

CCPI RWA applications must advance a locally-led watershed-scale assessment effort to identify and quantify local conservation priorities. CCPI RWAs should include two products. The first product is a resource profile for the 8-digit HUC watershed of interest which provides a rough picture of resource conditions and conservation efforts in the watershed and can be used as a focal point for discussions during locally-led identification of resource concerns and priorities. The second product is a resource assessment that builds on the information in the profile and develops quantitative estimates of the size, scope, and value of natural resource needs in the watershed. NRCS encourages proposals to develop RWAs in watersheds with significant holdings by limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes.

Complete applications must be submitted to the appropriate State Conservationist. Within each State, the State Technical Committee (or a subcommittee thereof) will evaluate submissions based on the criteria for proposal evaluation found in this notice. The State Technical Committee, in its advisory capacity, will make recommendations for proposal selection to the State Conservationist. The State Conservationist may forward up to two proposals to NRCS National Headquarters for funding consideration. Because CCPI RWA projects are carried out on a watershed basis, it is anticipated that some proposals will cross State or Tribal boundaries. For such multi-State proposals, the application must be submitted to all relevant State Conservationists for consideration. The State Conservationists will coordinate their review and consideration of such applications and must jointly concur with an application before forwarding it to NRCS National Headquarters.

The forwarding of a proposal(s) to NRCS National Headquarters indicates: 1) the State Conservationist's commitment to provide an advisor to the award recipient during the planning phase, and 2) the State Conservationist's intent to provide financial and technical assistance for project implementation, as described in the project application, following successful completion of the project planning phase. Future commitment of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds.

Applications forwarded by State Conservationists to NRCS National Headquarters will be evaluated by a CCPI Review Board according to the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in this notice. The CCPI Review Board will make recommendations for awards to the Chief. Final selections will be made by the Chief. For applications selected by the Chief, CCPI funds will be allocated to the appropriate State Conservationist who will make the award to the Project Director through an agreement. Agreements awarding funds will be signed by the Project Director and the appropriate State Conservationist.

RWAs developed using CCPI funds must comply with all relevant Federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act

(ESA), as well as cultural resource preservation requirements. Following successful completion of the planning phase, the Project Director submits the final assessment to the State Conservationist(s) and all other partners of the project. After approval of the assessment by the project partners, project implementation may begin using funding secured or provided by the partnership.

Because the CCPI RWA component is fostering locally-led planning efforts to address significant natural resource and environmental concerns, it is anticipated that a variety of potential funding sources will be identified for implementation of the project plan and meet the goals of a project. Implementation funding may be secured from such sources as local, State, Tribal, or Federal governments, or from private organizations.

B. Rapid Watershed Assessment Component Objectives

The majority of NRCS conservation program funding goes directly to producers or small groups of producers. NRCS recognizes the need for multiple approaches to natural resource conservation, and is committed to using various means to assist producers in meeting their natural resource objectives and in complying with local, State, and Federal environmental regulations. NRCS believes that fostering locally-led planning is critical to addressing natural resource concerns that are watershed-based in scope. Implementation of the rapid watershed assessment component of CCPI is a reflection of this belief.

Proposals must describe projects that are consistent with the following seven CCPI rapid watershed assessment objectives. The projects must encourage:

1. local stakeholders to come together to identify, assess, and prioritize conservation needs and actions at the 8-digit hydrologic unit;
2. the use of current and cutting-edge technology to expedite the planning process;
3. outreach to stakeholders and agricultural producers as to the status of resource conditions in the watershed;
4. producers to share information and participate in the conservation need identification and assessment phases;
5. producers to implement and maintain practices identified in the assessment;
6. cumulative and demonstrable conservation benefits in the watershed; and
7. participation by partners in the implementation phase as well as the assessment phase.

C. Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Tribes

For the rapid watershed assessment component, NRCS intends to select as at least one of the CCPI awards a proposal that addresses the need for rapid assessment of resource conditions in an area with significant numbers of limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes. NRCS encourages applications that address the natural resource conservation needs of these historically underserved farmers and ranchers. In the event that no proposals of this type merits selection, an additional award(s) will be selected from the general pool of applicants.

II. FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Effective on the publication date of this notice, NRCS announces the availability of up to \$2 million for the rapid watershed assessment component of CCPI. Funds will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Applicants may request between \$50,000 and \$200,000 in funding for a CCPI rapid watershed assessment project. Awards will not exceed \$50,000 per 8-digit HUC watershed to undergo rapid watershed assessment. For example, a proposal to complete rapid watershed assessment on three 8-digit HUCs would only be eligible for up to \$150,000. Applicants are encouraged to apply for funding to complete rapid watershed assessments on multiple 8-digit HUC watersheds. This is not a requirement, however. Applicants must provide a 1:1 match using non-NRCS funding. Up to 100 percent of the match may come from in-kind contributions. Awardees will have 18 months to complete their resource profiles and watershed assessments.

The available funding is anticipated to support approximately 10 to 15 awards assessing at least twenty 8-digit HUCs. The anticipated start date for awarded projects is July 1, 2006. Awards will be made using agreements developed and managed by the NRCS State office in the States in which projects are carried out.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Applicant Eligibility

CCPI applicants must be a State or local agency, Federally-recognized Indian tribe, or non-governmental organization that has a history of working with agricultural producers. Individuals, private businesses, and Federal agencies, while not eligible to apply for CCPI funds, are invited to participate as partners in CCPI projects.

The project partners are responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully implement and complete the project. NRCS will provide an advisor to provide the award recipients with guidance during the assessment and implementation phases of the project. NRCS encourages the use of technical service providers to assist with project planning and implementation.

B. Eligible Activities

CCPI funds are to be used solely for the completion of the project assessment phase, which includes the compilation of natural resource, social, and environmental information, conducting public input and outreach efforts, development of a project plan, and the establishment of partnership agreements.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Obtain Application Materials

All OMB standard forms necessary for CCPI submission are available on the OMB website http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_forms.html or from Grants.gov.

B. Rapid Watershed Assessment Interim Guidance

NRCS RWA interim guidance is posted on the CCPI website:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi>. Applicants submitting proposals to the RWA component should review this document carefully. **RWAs developed using CCPI funding must be consistent with this guidance.**

C. Proposal Content and Format

Proposals must contain the information set forth below in order to receive consideration for a grant. Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of NRCS or others as to the relative merits of the project described in the application. Applications must be submitted in the following format:

Proposals are to be typewritten on 8½” x 11” white paper, double spaced, and on one side only. The text of the proposal must be typewritten in a font no smaller than 12-point, with one-inch margins. If submitting proposals for more than one 8-digit HUC watershed, submit a separate, complete write-up for each project in the package.

Proposals must include all required forms and narrative sections described below; incomplete applications will not be considered. NRCS recognizes that information related to the project implementation phase will not be fully known until the project planning is completed; however, applicants must provide the projected or anticipated information, to the best of their ability, when submitting the application. Applications must be submitted in the following format:

1. Cover sheet: Applications must use Standard Form 424 as the cover sheet for each project proposal. Standard Form 424 can be downloaded from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424.pdf> or obtained from a NRCS State Office (a list of NRCS State Offices is provided in the appendix of this announcement).

2. Project abstract: Each proposal must contain a summary of not more than two pages that provides the following:

- a. Project title;
- b. Project objectives and scope;
- c. 8-digit HUC watersheds to be assessed and their importance to conservation;
- d. Summary of the work to be performed during the project assessment phase and anticipated in the project implementation phase;
- e. Name of the State Conservationist(s) cooperating on the project;
- f. Names and affiliations of project partners and collaborators;
- g. Projected estimates of agricultural producer participation in the conservation efforts;
- h. Duration of project planning phase and anticipated duration of the project implementation phase (beginning and ending dates);
- i. Total cost of the project planning phase and the anticipated needs during the project implementation phase;
- j. Total Federal funds requested for the project planning phase; and,
- k. Name, address, telephone, email, and other contact information for the Project Director.

3. Project description: The CCPI rapid watershed assessment project must be completely and accurately described in no more than 10 typewritten, double-spaced pages, and include the following:

a. Project background: Describe the history and need for the proposed project. Describe how this project will provide environmental benefits superior to those of past or current efforts and how the information collected and distributed through the CCPI rapid watershed assessment will improve the likelihood for project success.

b. Project objectives: Be specific, using qualitative and quantitative measures to describe the purpose and objectives of both the project planning phase and the project implementation phase. State how the project objectives are consistent with the CCPI rapid watershed assessment objectives described above (p.15).

c. Project methods: Describe clearly how the planning phase of the project will be carried out. Detail the activities, technological tools/products used to streamline the process, and the partners required to complete the profile and assessment. List the conservation programs and describe the conservation activities that may be required to implement the project.

d. Scope: Describe the location of the project and the relative size and scope (e.g., acres, animal units, etc.) of the project area, including a description of the significance of the particular watershed undergoing rapid assessment. Provide a map of the project area;

e. Project partnership: List all project partners and their roles in the project. Describe how the funds for the rapid assessment phase will be used to build and strengthen the project partnership and increase the quality of resource information used for planning. Estimate the historic rate of producer participation in conservation efforts in the project area. Describe the outreach efforts that will be used to promote the project to producers and encourage them to participate;

f. Project milestones and timeline: Provide a table listing project milestones, timeframes, and significant actions through project completion. The milestones and timeline should reflect the resource profile, stakeholder coordination, rapid assessment, assessment publication and distribution, and implementation phases of the project;

g. Project management: Give a detailed description of how the project will be organized and managed. Include a list of key project personnel, their relevant education or experience, and their anticipated contributions to the project;

h. Anticipated results and benefits: Describe the anticipated social and environmental benefits to be derived from the proposed activities of the project assessment and implementation phases, and explain how the results will be measured. Describe how the assessment results will be communicated to others through outreach activities. Describe anticipated environmental benefits and identify likely project beneficiaries, for example, agricultural producers by type or region or sector; rural communities; municipalities. Explain how these entities will benefit. Be as specific and quantitative as possible.

i. Limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, and tribes: To receive special consideration for selection in this category, describe how the project addresses identification, quantification, and prioritization of conservation needs, as it impacts limited resource or beginning farmers and ranchers, or tribes.

4. Budget Information: The budget section of the application should be prepared in two parts. For the project planning phase, use Standard Form 424A to document budget needs. Standard Form 424A can be downloaded from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424a.pdf>. In addition, provide a detailed narrative in support of the standard form. Itemize the costs necessary for successful completion of the planning phase of the project, including the amount of CCPI funds requested. Indicate the total amount (both cash and in-kind) of non-NRCS matching support that will be available for the planning phase. In the budget narrative, identify the source, the amount, and the nature (cash or in-kind) of the matching funds. In-kind costs of equipment or project personnel may comprise the entirety of the matching funds required for the project planning phase.

For the project implementation phase, provide a list of anticipated Federal, State, and local conservation programs that may be used to implement the project, and the anticipated level of funding needed to implement the project plan.

The forwarding of a proposal to NRCS National Headquarters indicates the State Conservationist's intent to provide financial and technical assistance for project implementation and an advisor to guide the award recipient through the rapid watershed assessment process. Future obligation of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds.

Certain costs, such as entertainment costs, may not be covered using CCPI funds. Questions regarding the allowances of particular items of cost should be directed to the appropriate State contact listed in the appendix. Indirect cost allowances will be governed by the following:

Non-profit entities—OMB circular A-122

Educational Institutions—OMB circular A-21

State and local governments—OMB circular A-87

Administrative requirements—2 CFR 215

Grants and Agreements—OMB circular A-102 and 7 CFR 3015

5. State Conservationist's statement and signature: Provide a signed statement from the State Conservationist in support of the proposed project. The statement should indicate the State Conservationist's support for the project; a commitment to working collaboratively with project partners to achieve the project objectives; and, intent to provide financial and technical assistance funding for the project implementation effort. Future obligation of NRCS conservation program funds is contingent on availability of funds. Multi-State proposals must include the signatures and indication of concurrence of all State Conservationists involved in the project. *NOTE:* This item must be added to the application after it is selected by the State Conservationist to be forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters.

6. Certifications: All applications must include a signed Standard Form (SF) 424B - Assurances, Non-construction Programs. SF 424B may be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/sf424b.pdf>, or contact a State NRCS office.

Applicants, by signing and submitting an application, assure and certify that they are in compliance with the following from 7 Code of Federal Register (CFR):

a. Part 3017, Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) (http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3017_04.html);

- b. Part 3018, New Restrictions on Lobbying
(http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3018_04.html); and,
c. Part 3021, Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace
(Financial Assistance)
(http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_04/7cfr3021_04.html).

7. DUNS Number: A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 70 million businesses worldwide. A federal Register notice of final policy issuance (68 FR 38402) requires a DUNS number in every application (i.e., hard copy and electronic) for a grant or cooperative agreement (except applications from individuals) submitted on or after October 1, 2003. Therefore, potential applicants should verify that they have a DUNS number or take the steps needed to obtain one. For information about how to obtain a DUNS number go to <http://www.grants.gov/RequestaDUNS> or call 1-866-705-5711. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.

8. Required Registration for Grants.gov: The Central Contract Registry (CCR) is a database that serves as the primary Government repository for contractor information required for the conduct of business with the Government. This database will also be used as a central location for maintaining organizational information for organizations seeking and receiving grants from the Government. Such organizations must register in the CCR registration). For information about how to register in the CCR visit the “Get Started” section at <http://www.grants.gov>. Allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the CCR registration.

D. How to Submit a Written Proposal

Applicants must submit one signed original and four copies of each project application. Each copy of the proposal must be stapled securely in the upper left hand corner. Hard copies must be accompanied by an electronic copy on a 3.5-inch diskette or CD. Electronic files must be in either Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. Applications submitted via facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted.

Written proposals must be sent to the NRCS State Conservationist in the State where the proposed project will be carried out. Multi-State proposals must be submitted to all relevant State Conservationists. See the Appendix for the list of NRCS State Conservationists, or consult the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/organization/regions.html>.

E. How to Submit a Proposal Electronically:

Applicants may submit proposals electronically through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the federal government’s e-grants portal. Applications submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) must contain all of the elements of a complete application outlined above. Instructions for electronically submitting the required standard forms, abstract, narrative, and declarations are included in the CCPI [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) notice. Applications submitted electronically are date and time stamped by [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and must be received by the identified closing date.

Note that NRCS is not responsible for any technical malfunctions or website

problems related to Grants.gov submissions. Applicants should begin the Grants.gov process well before the submission deadline to avoid problems.

F. Proposal Due Date

Applicant Submission to the State office: Written proposals must be received at the appropriate NRCS State Office(s) by 5 p.m. (local time) on March 7, 2006. A list of State Offices and addresses appears at the end of this notice and is available on the NRCS Web site at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/organization/regions.html>. Applications submitted electronically must be received by 5 p.m. EST on March 7, 2006.

Forwarding to National Headquarters: State Conservationists must forward proposals selected at the State level to the following address by 5 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on April 7, 2006: CCPI National Manager, Financial Assistance Programs Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 14th and Independence Ave. SW., Room 5239-S, Washington, DC 20250. Proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted.

A proposal's postmark date is not a factor in whether an application is received on time. The applicant assumes the risk of any delays in proposal delivery. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit completed applications via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by NRCS.

G. Acknowledgement of Submission

Receipt of all applications forwarded from State Conservationists to NRCS National Headquarters will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants must provide an accurate email address.

H. Funding Restrictions

The indirect costs (F & A) for CCPI awards may not exceed 15 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Awardees may not use unrecovered indirect costs as part of their matching funds.

V. PROPOSAL REVIEW

A. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The following five criteria will be used to evaluate project proposals at the State and National levels. Each of the five criteria carries equal weight.

Purpose and goals

1. The purpose and goals of the project are clearly stated;
2. The project adheres to the CCPI rapid watershed assessment objectives described in this notice;
3. The project describes the need for additional information on resource conditions and priority concerns in that particular watershed; and,
4. There is clear and significant potential for a positive and measurable outcome.

Stakeholder/partner support

1. A declaration of support for the rapid watershed assessment by key and/or participating organizations, stakeholders, and partners.

Soundness of planning phase

1. The planning phase is based on a locally led, watershed approach that details a strategy for:
 - a. collection of information from local individuals and communities;
 - b. inventorying and mapping of natural resource and environmental conditions;
 - c. assessing current resource conditions;
 - d. identifying the problems, concerns, and opportunities;
 - e. determining the goals and objectives of the local individuals and communities;
 - f. formulating alternative solutions;
 - g. identifying appropriate conservation systems to address the major land uses and associated resource concerns for the watershed; and
 - h. quantifying the costs of implementing appropriate conservation practices with willing landowners in the watershed;
2. The outreach strategy will likely generate local interest and participation.

Implementation strategy

1. The proposal includes a vision for project implementation that is consistent with the rapid watershed assessment phase approach.
2. There is a good likelihood that the project will attain its goals and objectives through implementation of the actions identified in the assessment.
3. The proposal demonstrates intent to leverage NRCS conservation programs with other partner contributions to achieve enhanced environmental results.

Project management

1. The proposal has clear milestones and timelines, designated staff, and demonstrates collaboration and partnership and the use of available technology to expedite the assessment process.
2. The project staff has the relevant expertise needed to do the work.
3. The budget request is reasonable and adequately justified.
4. Project partners provide cost-sharing matches and additional resources for project implementation that leverage the Federal investment.

B. Proposal Review and Selection Process

Upon receipt by the NRCS State Conservationist(s), applications will be evaluated and ranked by the State Technical Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, using the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in this notice. The State Technical Committee will forward the result of its review to the State Conservationist, who will choose up to two proposals to be forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters. Multi-State proposals forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters must have the signature and concurrence of each State Conservationist who is party to the proposal.

All applications forwarded to NRCS National Headquarters will be screened for completeness. Incomplete applications, including those that do not meet eligibility requirements, will be eliminated from competition, and notification of elimination will be mailed to the applicant.

Applications meeting the requirements of this notice will be evaluated by a CCPI Review Board using the criteria for proposal evaluation identified in the next section below. The CCPI Review Board consists of the NRCS Deputy Chief for Programs, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, one Regional Assistant Chief, and one NRCS National Headquarters Division Director.

Ranked applications will be forwarded to the Chief with the recommendations of the CCPI Review Board. The Chief will make the final award selections.

VI. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Anticipated Award Announcement and Notification

CCPI awards are anticipated to be announced on June 1, 2006. Applicants who have been selected will be notified by the appropriate State Conservationist and by official letter from NRCS National Headquarters. Applicants whose proposals have not been selected will be notified by NRCS State offices and by official letter from NRCS National Headquarters.

B. Reporting Requirements

CCPI reporting requirements will be included in the agreement between the awardee and the appropriate State Conservationist.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

CCPI National Program Manager:

Kari Cohen
CCPI National Program Manager
14th and Independence Avenue SW
Room 5239-S
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone: (202) 720-2335
Fax: (202) 720-4265

Rapid Watershed Assessment Component Contact:

National Watershed Planner
14th and Independence Avenue SW
Room 6009-S
Washington, DC 20250
Phone: (202) 690-3501
Fax: (202) 720-2998

State Program Contacts:

See list in appendix for the contact information for your State.

Signed in Washington, DC, on January 5, 2006.

BRUCE I. KNIGHT

Chief

Natural Resources Conservation Service

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationists

Alabama: Gary Kobylski, 3381 Skyway Drive, Post Office Box 311, Auburn, AL 36830; phone: (334) 887-4500; fax: (334) 887-4552; gary.kobylski@al.usda.gov

Alaska: Robert Jones, Atrium Building, Suite 100, 800 West Evergreen, Palmer, AK 99645-6539; phone: (907) 761-7760; fax: (907) 761-7790; robert.jones@ak.usda.gov

Arizona: David McKay, Suite 800, 3003 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012-2945; phone: (602) 280-8808; fax: (602) 280-8809 or 8805; david.mckay@az.usda.gov

Arkansas: Kalven L. Trice, Federal Building, Room 3416, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201-3228; phone: (501) 301-3100; fax: (501) 301-3194; kalven.trice@ar.usda.gov

California: Ed Burton, Suite 4164, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616-4164; phone: (530) 792-5600; fax: (530) 792-5790; ed.burton@ca.usda.gov

Caribbean Area: Juan A. Martinez, Director, IBM Building, Suite 604, 654 Munoz Rivera Avenue, Hato Rey, PR 00918-4123; phone: (787) 766-5206; fax: (787) 766-6563; juan.martinez@pr.usda.gov

Colorado: James Allen Green, Room E200C, 655 Parfet Street, Lakewood, CO 80215-5521; phone: (720) 544-2810; fax: (720) 544-2965; allen.green@co.usda.gov

Connecticut: Margo L. Wallace, 344 Merrow Road, Tolland, CT 06084; phone: (860) 871-4011; fax: (860) 871-4054; margo.wallace@ct.usda.gov

Delaware: Jon Hall, Suite 101, 1203 College Park Drive, Dover, DE 19904-8713; phone: (302) 678-4160; fax: (302) 678-0843; jon.hall@de.usda.gov

Florida: T. Niles Glasgow, 2614 N.W. 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32606-6611, or Post Office Box 141510, Gainesville, FL 32614; phone: (352) 338-9500; fax: (352) 338-9574; niles.glasgow@fl.usda.gov

Georgia: James Tillman, Federal Building, Stop 200, 355 East Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601-2769; phone: (706) 546-2272; fax: (706) 546-2120; james.tillman@ga.usda.gov

Hawaii: Lawrence T. Yamamoto, Room 4-118, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96850-0002; phone: (808) 541-2600, ext. 100; fax: (808) 541-1335; larry.yamamoto@hi.usda.gov

Idaho: Richard W. Sims, Suite C, 9173 West Barnes Drive, Boise, ID 83709; phone: (208) 378-5700; fax: (208) 378-5735; richard.sims@id.usda.gov

Illinois: William J. Gradle, 2118 W. Park Court, Champaign, IL 61821; phone: (217) 353-6600; fax: (217) 353-6676; bill.gradle@il.usda.gov

Indiana: Jane E. Hardisty, 6013 Lakeside Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46278-2933; phone: (317) 290-3200; fax: (317) 290-3225; jane.hardisty@in.usda.gov

Iowa: Richard Van Klaveren, 693 Federal Building, Suite 693, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-2180; phone: (515) 284-6655; fax: (515) 284-4394; rick.vanklaveren@ia.usda.gov

Kansas: Harold Klaege, 760 South Broadway, Salina, KS 67401-4642; phone: (785) 823-4565; fax: (785) 823-4540; harold.klaege@ks.usda.gov

Kentucky: David G. Sawyer, Suite 110, 771 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503-5479; phone: (859) 224-7350; fax: (859) 224-7399; david.sawyer@ky.usda.gov

Louisiana: Donald W. Gohmert, 3737 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302; phone: (318) 473-7751; fax: (318) 473-7626; don.gohmert@la.usda.gov

Maine: Joyce Swartzendruber, Suite 3, 967 Illinois Avenue, Bangor, ME 04401; phone: (207) 990-9100, ext. 3; fax: (207) 990-9599; joyce.swartzendruber@me.usda.gov

Maryland: Ginger Murphy, John Hanson Business Center, Suite 301, 339 Busch's Frontage Road, Annapolis, MD 21401-5534; phone: (410) 757-0861 ext. 315; fax: (410) 757-0687; ginger.murphy@md.usda.gov

Massachusetts: Cecil B. Currin, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002-2995; phone: (413) 253-4351; fax: (413) 253-4375; cecil.currin@ma.usda.gov

Michigan: John A. Bricker, Suite 250, 3001 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823-6350; phone: (517) 324-5270; fax: (517) 324-5171; jack.bricker@mi.usda.gov

Minnesota: William Hunt, Suite 600, 375 Jackson Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1854; phone: (651) 602-7900; fax: (651) 602-7913 or 7914; william.hunt@mn.usda.gov

Mississippi: Homer L. Wilkes, Suite 1321, Federal Building, 100 West Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39269-1399; phone: (601) 965-5205; fax: (601) 965-4940; homer.wilkes@ms.nrcs.usda.gov

Missouri: Roger A. Hansen, Parkade Center, Suite 250, 601 Business Loop 70, West Columbia, MO 65203-2546; phone: (573) 876-0901; fax: (573) 876-0913; roger.hansen@mo.usda.gov

Montana: David C. White, Federal Building, Room 443, 10 East Babcock Street, Bozeman, MT 59715-4704; phone: (406) 587-6811; fax: (406) 587-6761, dave.white@mt.usda.gov

Nebraska: Stephen K. Chick, Federal Building, Room 152, 100 Centennial Mall, North Lincoln, NE 68508-3866 phone: (402) 437-5300; fax: (402) 437-5327; steve.chick@ne.usda.gov

Nevada: Richard Vigil, 1365 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502; phone: (775) 857-8500; fax: (775) 857-8524; richard.vigil@nv.usda.gov

New Hampshire: Tessa Chadwick, Federal Building, 2 Madbury Road, Durham, NH 03824-2043; phone: (603) 868-7581, ext. 125; fax: (603) 868-5301; tessa.chadwick@nh.usda.gov

New Jersey: Anthony J. Kramer, 220 Davidson Avenue, 4th Floor, Somerset, NJ 08873-3157; phone: (732) 537-6040; fax: (732) 537-6095; tony.kramer@nj.usda.gov

New Mexico: Rosendo Trevino III, Suite 305, 6200 Jefferson Street, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109-3734; phone: (505) 761-4400; fax: (505) 761-4481; rosendo.trevino@nm.usda.gov

New York: Joseph R. DelVecchio, Suite 354, 441 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-2450; phone: (315) 477-6504; fax: (315) 477-6550; joe.delvecchio@ny.usda.gov

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